



Galway City Community Network
Líonra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

Galway City Community Network
The Public Participation Network in Galway City

Summer Plenary

Wednesday, June 19th, 2024

Attendance

Please see below.

Apologies

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was held in the Menlo Park Hotel. Tommy Flaherty chaired and opened the Plenary meeting by welcoming all. He invited those in attendance to share their names and organisations.

Minutes of Previous Plenary and Matters Arising

The March 2024 Plenary Minutes were circulated to all members ahead of the meeting and there were no changes to these. Derick Hambleton proposed the minutes, Sally Anne Corcoran seconded, and these were approved.

There were no matters arising.

GCCN Representatives' Updates & Community Discussions

The GCCN Representative Reports were circulated ahead of the meeting and the GCCN members were invited to read them before attending. Conversations followed and the GCCN members in attendance were invited to raise any questions and comments regarding these reports.

Planning: Brendan Mulligan provided a report covering several key points, including updates on a new variation to the City Development Plan, with discussions on Ardaun and the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). He also mentioned that a draft of the Heritage Plan has been released for public consultation. Concerns were raised about the lack of cooperation between Galway City Council and Galway County Council on planning matters. Derick Hambleton reiterated GCCN's pro-development

stance, emphasizing the need for sustainable transport and housing. He pointed out that progress on these fronts is often met with resistance within the city, highlighting a disparity in infrastructure development, with more houses being built in the county and a lack of engagement from city councillors.

The dedication of GCCN representatives like Brendan and Derick in advocating for these issues, despite receiving limited recognition, was acknowledged and appreciated by all attendees. Additionally, the group raised concerns about council meetings not being recorded or live-streamed, calling for the implementation of this measure, as it had been promised by candidates during the "Meet the Candidates" events.

Economic, Community, and Cultural Development SPC: Dominick Whelan provided updates, noting that local authorities are set to receive significant funding related to Knock Airport. He also announced the appointment of a new Integration Officer, who plans to establish contact with the GCCN.

Transportation SPC: Shane Foran provided an update, reporting that students from Salerno and Coláiste Éinde presented their findings to the City Council on the barriers to walking and cycling to school, with a high demand among children for these options. He also noted that 20% of Galway residents use a bike at least once a week, while 7% rely on public transport, with widespread support for walking and cycling initiatives. Concerns were raised regarding the removal of pedestrian crossings at Wolfe Tone Bridge, a controversial topic discussed during the SPC meeting.

Questions were asked about how people would access the new bridge when coming from the cathedral.

Brendan Smith provided insights from the Youth Environment Project at ATU, which covered biodiversity, transport, and related issues. Key findings included unreliable public transport and concerns about cycling safety. He encouraged attendees to read the report prepared by the young people.

Climate Action, Environment, Recreation, and Amenity SPC: Brendan Smith provided updates on several key initiatives, including the hiring of new staff, such as the first Climate Officer. He announced that the Climate Festival will take place in September and reported on a workshop organized by the Biodiversity Officer. Air quality monitoring systems are set to be implemented, but the absence of park wardens remains a significant issue for keeping parks safe and clean. Smith also noted that next year will mark the 25th anniversary of Terryland Park, Ireland's first park of its kind.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC): Lorraine Lally provided a report highlighting the Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan Pilots. Galway City Council is planning to apply for funding from central government, and if successful, additional assistance will be needed.

An update on SICAP was provided, including a list of groups in Galway funded under the Recognition Fund, and news that the Community Centre Fund has been launched, with an information session to be facilitated by Galway City Council soon. This fund will be managed through Pobal.

Galway Sports Partnership: Chris Hickey provided an update noting that funding opportunities are available, though smaller groups are finding the application process challenging. It was suggested that GCCN could offer expertise and training on completing funding applications, while Galway City Partnership could run training sessions on how to fill out the funding applications.

GCCN Update

The GCCN staff gave an update on the GCCN work since the previous Plenary meeting in March 2024, noting that the details were included in the slides that will be circulated to all members after the meeting.

Key highlights included the linkage group meetings held between two plenaries, "Meet the Candidates" events, and coffee mornings to celebrate important dates like World Environment Day. Training on messaging for social change to counter far-right rhetoric, as well as a GCCN induction day in April and collaboration with Galway Volunteer, were also mentioned. Two upcoming coffee mornings were announced, with details to be shared soon.

Oana acknowledged Brian's significant efforts in organizing the "Meet the Candidates" events. She also reminded the group that the monthly newsletter is open for any information they wish to share.

AOB

No AOB.

Attendance

Present

Organisation	Name
Access for All	Arun Asan
Access for All	Marian Maloney
Access for All / Epilepsy Ireland	Lorraine Lally
Africa United / Doughiska Men Shed	Ope Dipson
An Áit Eile Cooperative	Thom Stewart
An Taisce	Brendan Mulligan
An Taisce	Derrick Hambleton
Ballybane Community Resource Centre	Tommy Flaherty
COPE Galway	Sally Anne Corcoran
Doughishka Ballybrit Tidy Town	Kola Oworu
Eastside Community Drama	Louie Macguire
Engineers Ireland West	Thomas Duggan
EQUAL Ireland	Eddie
Galway Boxing Club	Eddie McDonagh
Galway City Partnership	Imelda Gormally
Galway City School of Judo	Chris Hickey
Galway City Women's Shed	Caroline Rowan
Galway Cycling Campaign	Kevin Jennings
Galway Rape Crisis Centre	Sarahjane Grennan
Galway Traveller Movement	Kathleen Sweeney
Glúas	Niall Ó Brolcháin
Grattan Court Res Ass/An Taisce	Eleanor Hough
Irish Girl Guides Merlin Woods	Caroline Flanagan
Junior Chamber International Galway	Dominick Whelan
Pernet CLG	Imelda O sullivan
Pernet CLG	John Murphy
Salaam	Abir Biazid
Salaam	Maryyum Kashif
Salaam	Sanober Jaffry
Somali Community Galway	Abdullahi Mudey

Tuatha of Terryland Forest Park	Brendan Smith
UHUG	Daria Kvashyna
UHUG	Artem Kvashyn
UHUG	Olena Bratchenko
United Women Galway	Jamal AlHousamy
Universities of Sanctuary, UoG	Aidan Harte
University of Galway	RaisuL Sourav
Women for Integration and Wellbeing	Olena Domina

In Attendance:

Name	Organisation
Brian Doherty	GCCN
Jacinta Fay	
Oana Nicoara	GCCN
Sylvia Farkasovska	GCCN